

Formula magistri offitii

acts, that although they be executed
is good

in fee, and they join in a lease
every drawn from them both

estate, but he without deed
by deed; but they are

to be, and they join in granting
rents, and no double rents or rents

and he make a lease for three lives, and his
by the statute of 32 H. VIII. and yet it

tenant in tail hath by the common law, the
authority which he hath by the statute

able by custom and of other, and he
that is a good title of all the land of com

its of the other land by the statutes,
he may be good, grounded in part upon

of 3 H. VII. and in part upon that in
the common law, and is upon fey

pointeth to the conveyed
on this rule

which be in party the
part. fensible, because it be he

XXIV

numina, et veritas in terra non perit
magistratus

only.

sent, vide accord. 44 H. 1. 1. 60
com. Pleas. 20. 40. 2 H. 3. 71.
3. 11. 8. 13. 14. 15. 16.

EDMUND
SPENCER
POET

THE
POETICAL WORKS

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OF
EDMUND SPENSER,

FROM THE TEXT OF THE BEST AUTHORS.

Containing

THE FAERY QUEENE.
COLIN CLOUT'S COME HOME AGAIN.
VIRGIL'S GNAT.
THE SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR.
HYMNS.
VISIONS.
MOTHER HUBBARD'S TALE.
PROTHALAMION.

EPITHALAMION.
SONNETS.
ELEGIAC POEMS.
TEARS OF THE MUSES.
RUINS OF ROME.
RUINS OF TIME.
MINOPOTMOS.
U. U. U.

To which is prefixed

THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

Goe, little Booke ! thyself present,
As child whose parent is unkent,
To him that is the Prefident
Of Noblenesse and Chivalrie—
And, asked who thee forth did bring ?
A Shepheard's fwaine say did thee sing,
All as his straying flocke he fedde ;
And when his Honor hath thee redde,
Crave pardon for thy hardy head—
And when thou art past jeopardie,
Come tell me what was said of mee,
And I will send more after thee.

SPENSER TO HIS BOOKE.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY MUNDRELL AND SON, ROYAL BANK CLOSE,
Anno 1792.

To the most vertuous and beautiful Lady, the Lady Carew.

NE may I, without blot of endlesse blame,
You, fairest Lady, leaue out of this place,
But with remembrance of your gracious name
Wherewith that courtly garland most ye grace,
And deck the world, adorne these verses base:
Not that these few lines can in them comprise
Those glorious ornaments of heavenly grace
Wherewith you triumph ouer feeble eyes,
And in subdued harts do tyrannise;
For thereunto doth need a golden quill,
And fluer leaues, them right to deuise,
But to make hamble present of good will;
Which, when as timely meanes it purchase may,
In ampler wife it selfe will forth display.

E. S.

To all the gracious and beautifull Ladies in the Courts

THE Chian peincter, when he was requird
To pourtraict Venus in her perfect hew,
To make his worke more absolute, desird
Of all the fairest maides to haue the vew.
Much more me needs to draw the semblant trew,
Of Beautie's Queene, the world's sole woderment,
To sharpe my sence with fundry beauties vew,
And steale from each some part of ornament.
If all the world to seeke I oucrwent,
A fairer crew yet no where could I see,
Then that braue Court doth to mine eie present,
That the world's pride seems gathered there to
Of each a part I stole by cunning theste: [see:
Forgiue it me, fair Dames! sith lesse you haue
not left.

E. S.

THE FAERY QUEENE.

BOOK I.

CONTAINING

THE LEGEND OF THE KNIGHT OF THE RED-CROSSE, OR OF HOLINESSE.

i.
Lo I, the man whose Muse whylome did make
As time her taught, in lowly shepheards weeds,
Am now enforst a farre unfitter talke,
For trumpets sterne to change mine oaten reeds,
And sing of knights and ladies gentle deeds,
Whose praises having slept in silence long,
Me all too meane the sacred Muse areeds
To blazon broade amongst her learned throng:
Fierce warres and faithful loves shall moralize my
song.

ii.
Help then, O holy Virgin! chiefe of Nyne,
Thy weaker novice to perform thy will;
Lay forth out of thine everlasting scryne
The antique rolles which there lye hidden still,
Of Faerie knights and fayrest Tanaquill,
Whom that most noble Briton prince so long
Sought through the world, and suffered so much ill,
That I must rue his undeferved wrong:
O helpe thou my weak wit, and sharpen my dull
tong.
Vol. II.

iii.
And thou most dreaded impe of highest Joves
Faire Venus' sonne, that with thy cruell dart
At that good knight so cunningly didst rove,
That glorious fire it kindled in his hart,
Lay now thy deadly heben bowe apart,
And with thy mother mylde come to mine ayde;
Come both, and with you bring triumphant Mart,
In loves and gentle jolities arraid, [layd.
After his murderous spoyles and bloody rage al-

iv.
And with them eke, O goddesse heavenly bright,
Mirroure of grace and majestic divine,
Great Ladic of the greatest Isle, whose light
Like Phœbus lampe throughout the world doth
Shed thy faire beames into my feeble eyne, [shine,
And raise my thoughtes, too humble and too vile,
To think of that true glorious type of thine,
The argument of mine afflicted file;
The which to hear vouchsafe, O dearest dread!
a while.

XXIX.

Seemed those litle angels did uphold
The cloth of state, and on their purpled wings
Did beare the pendants through their nimbleffe
bold;

Besides a thousand more of such as sings
Hymns to high God, and carols heavenly things,
Encompassed the throne on which she sate;
She angel-like, the heyre of ancient kings
And mightie conquerors, in royall state,
Whylest kings and kesar at her feet did them
prostrate.

XXX.

Thus she did sit in foveraine maiestie,
Holding a scepter in her royall hand,
The sacred pledge of peace and clemencie,
With which high God had blest her happie land,
Maugre so many foes which did withstand;
But at her feet her sword was likewise layde,
Whose long rest rusted the bright steely brand,
Yet whenas foes enfurft, or friends fought ayde,
She could it sternely draw, that all the world dif-
mayde.

XXXI.

And round about before her feet there sate
A bevie of faire virgins clad in white,
That goodly seem'd t'adorne her royall state,
All lovely daughters of high love, that hight
Lite, by him begot in love's delight
Upon the righteous Themis; those, they say,
Upon love's iudgment-seat wayt day and night,
And when in wrath he threatens the world's
decay,
They doe his anger calme, and cruell vengeance
stay.

XXXII.

They also doe by his divine permission
Upon the thrones of mortall princes tend,
And often treat for pardon and remission
To suppliants, through fraytie which offend;
Those did upon Mercillaes throne attend,
Iust Dice, wise Eunomie, myld Eirene;
And them amongst, her glorie to commend,
Sate goodly Temperance in garments cleene,
And sacred Reverence, yborne of heavenly firene.

XXXIII.

Thus did she sit in royall rich estate,
Admyr'd of many, honoured of all,
Whylest underneath her feete, there as she sate,
An huge great lyon lay, that mote appall
An hardie courage, like captived thrall,
With a strong yron chaine and collar bound,
That once he could not move nor quick at all;
Yet did he murmure with rebellious sound,
And softly royne, when salvage choler gan re-
dound.

XXXIV.

So sitting high in dreaded foverayntie,
Those two straunge knights were to her presence
brought,
Who bowing low before her maiestie,
Did to her myld obeyfance, as they ought,
And meekest boone, that they imagine mought:
To whom she eke inclyning her withall,

As a faire troupe of her high-soaring thought,
A chearefull countenance on them let fall,
Yet tempred with some maiestic imperiall.

XXXV.

As the bright sunne, what time his siere teme
Towards the westerne brim begins to draw,
Gins to abate the brightnesse of his beme,
And fervour of his flames somewhat adaw;
So did this mightie ladie, when she saw
Those two strange knights such homage to her
make,

Bate somewhat of that maiestic and awe
That whylome wont to do so many quake,
And with more myld aspect those two to en-
tertack.

XXXVI.

Now at that instant, as occasion fell,
When these two stranger knights arriv'd in
place,

She was about affaires of common-wele,
Dealing of iustice with indifferent grace,
And hearing pleas of people meane and base;
Mongst which, as then, there was for to be heard
The triall of a great and weightie case,
Which on both sides was then debating hard,
But at the sight of these those were awhile debar'd.

XXXVII.

But after all her princely entertayne,
To th' hearing of that former cause in hand
Herselfe estfoones she gan convert againe,
Which that those knights likewise mote under-
stand,

And witnesse forth aright in forrain land,
Taking them up into her stately throne,
Where they mote heare the matter throughly
scand

On either part, she placed th' one on th' one,
The other on the other side, and neare them
none.

XXXVIII.

Then was there brought as prisoner to the barre,
A ladie of great countenance and place,
But that she it with foule abuse did marre;
Yet did appeare rare beautie in her face,
But blotted with condition vile and base,
That all her other honour did obscure,
And titles of nobilitie deface;
Yet in that wretched semblant she did sure
The peoples great compassion unto her allure.

XXXIX.

Then up arose a person of deepe reach,
And rare in-sight, hard matters to revele,
That well could charme his tongue, and time his
speach

To all assayes; his name was called Zele:
He gan that lady strongly to appele
Of many haynous crymes by her enured;
And with sharp reasons rang her such a pele,
That those whom she to pitie had allured,
He now t'abhorre and loath her person had pro-
cured.

XL.

First gan he tell how this that seem'd so faire
And royally arayd, Dueffa hight,

Book V.

Canto IX.

That false Dueffa, which had wrought great
care

And mickle mischiefe unto many a knight,
By her beguiled and confounded quight:
But not for those she now in question came,
Though also those mote question'd be aright,
But for vylde treasons and outrageous shame,
Which she against the dred Mercilla oft did
frame.

XLI.

For she whylome (as ye mote yet right well
Remember) had her counsels false conspyred
With faithlesse Blandamour and Paridell,
(Both two her paramours, both by her hyred,
And both with hope of shadowes vaine inspyred)
And with them practiz'd how for to deprive
Mercilla of her crowne, by her aspyred,
That she might it unto herselfe deryve,
And triumph in their blood whom she to death
did dryve.

XLII.

But through high Heaven's grace, which favour
not
The wicked driftes of trayterous desynes
Gainst loiall princes, all this cursed plot,
Ere prooffe it tooke, discovered was betymes,
And th'actours won the meede meet for their
crymes:

Such be the meede of all that by such meane
Unto the type of kingdomes title clymes;
But false Dueffa, now entided queene,
Was brought to her sad doome, as here was to
be scene.

XLIII.

Strongly did Zele her haynous fact enforce,
And many other crimes of foule defame
Against her brought, to banish all remorse,
And aggravate the horror of her blame;
And with him to make part against her came
Many grave persons that against her pled:
First was a sage old fyre, that had to name
The kingdomes Care, with a white silver hed,
That many high regards and reasons gainst her
red.

XLIV.

Then gan Authority her to oppose
With peremptorie powre, that made all mute;
And then the Law of Nations gainst her rose,
And reasons brought, that no man could refute;
Next gan Religion gainst her to impute
High God's behest, and powre of holy lawes;
Then gan the peoples cry and common sute
Importune care of their owne publicke cause;
And, lastly, iustice charged her with breach of
lawes.

XLV.

But then for her on the contrarie part
Rose many advocats for her to plead:
First there came Pittie, with full tender hart,
And with her ioyn'd Regard of Womanhead;
And then came Daunger, threatning hidden
dread,

And high alliance unto forren powre;
Then came Nobilitie of Birth, that bread
Great ruth through her misfortunes tragicke
stowre;
And, lastly, Griefe did plead, and many teares
forth powre.

XLVI.

With the near touch whereof in tender hart
The Briton prince was fore empassionate,
And woxe inclined much unto her part,
Through the sad terror of so dreadfull fate,
And wretched ruine of so high estate,
That for great ruth his courage gan relent;
Which whenas Zele perceived to abate,
He gan his earnest fervour to augment,
And many fearefull obiects to them to present.

XLVII.

He gan t'efforce the evidence anew,
And new accusments to produce in place;
He brought forth that old hag of hellish hew,
The cursed Ate, brought her face to face,
Who privie was and partie in the case:
She, glad of spoyle and ruinous decay,
Did her appeach, and to her more disgrace
The plot of all her practise did display,
And all her traynes and all her treasons forth
did lay.

XLVIII.

Then brought he forth, with grisly grim af-
pect,
Abhorred Murder, who with bloudie knyfe
Yet dropping fresh in hand did her detect,
And there with guiltie bloudish charged ryfe;
Then brought he forth Sedition, breeding ryfe
In troublous wits and mutinous upore;
Then brought he forth Incontinence of Lyfe,
Even foule Adulterie, her face before,
And lewd Impietie, that her accused fore.

XLIX.

All which whenas the prince had heard and
scene,
His former fancies ruth he gan repent,
And from her partie estfoones was drawn cleene;
But Artegal, with constant firme intent,
For zeale of iustice was against her bent;
So was she guiltie deemed of them all.
Then Zele began to urge her punishment,
And to their queene for iudgement loudly call,
Unto Mercilla myld, for iustice gainst the thrall.

L.

But she, whose princely breast was touched
neare
With piteous ruth of her so wretched plight,
Though plaine she saw, by all that she did heare,
That she of death was guiltie found by right,
Yet would not let iust vengeance on her light;
But rather let instead thereof to fall
Few perling drops from her faire lampes of
light;
The which she covering with her purple pall,
Would have the passion hid, and up arose with-
all,